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Is history repeating itself?

GERMANISM versus JUDAISM

THE JERUSALEM POST

**German philosopher blamed Jews for 'self-destructing' in Holocaust
Expert on leading 20th century German philosopher
reveals views written in 1942**

By [BENJAMIN WEINTHAL](#), 02/17/2015-28 Shevat, 5775 15:28



Martin Heidegger. Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

BERLIN – In a startling revelation in his so-called “Black Notebooks,” one of Germany’s leading philosophers of the 20th century, Martin Heidegger, blames the Jews for the Holocaust.

According to article in last week’s Italian daily Corriere della Sera by Heidegger expert Donatella Di Cesare, “The Shoah was an act of self-destruction by the Jews. This is the view that emerges from the new volume of Heidegger’s Black Notebooks.”

Heidegger wrote during the Holocaust in 1942 that the “community of Jews” is “in the age of the Christian West – the age of metaphysics – the principle of destruction.” He wrote further: “Only when what is essentially ‘Jewish,’ in the metaphysical sense, combats what is Jewish, is the peak of self-destruction in history reached.”

Heidegger, a towering figure in the school of continental European philosophy who died in 1976, was the rector at the University of Freiburg and summarily dismissed Jewish professors at the outset of the Nazi movement in the 1930s.

He was a member of the Nazi Party.

The German-American Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt, a former student and lover of Heidegger, had defended him as a leading light in modern philosophy.

Speaking with The Jerusalem Post on Monday, Efraim Zuroff, the chief Nazi-hunter for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said, “The latest findings regarding Heidegger’s views of the mass murders of European Jews clearly reveal a total lack of understanding of the criminality of the annihilation of the Jews by the Third Reich.”

Zuroff, who heads the Jerusalem office of the Wiesenthal Center, added, “It also makes one wonder to what degree Hannah Arendt was influenced by him in the Eichmann trial. It makes research by Bettina Stangneth in her book Eichmann before Jerusalem: The unexamined life of a mass murderer” all the more important.

She conclusively proves that Arendt misread Eichmann.” Arendt (1906-1975) wrote in her book Eichmann in Jerusalem that the Nazi official was merely a faceless bureaucrat.

According to her critics, she failed to grasp the lethal anti-Semitism that animated his behavior and world outlook.

The Auschwitz survivor and Austrian-Jewish journalist Jean Amery slammed Arendt for her work.

Di Cesare wrote that the Shoah for Heidegger is “presented as playing a decisive role” in a main tenant of Heidegger’s philosophy of the history of being.

After analyzing Heidegger’s newly discovered writings, she found that, “In this sense, the extermination of the Jews represents the apocalyptic moment when that which destroys ends up destroying itself. As the peak of ‘self-destruction in history,’ the Shoah makes possible the purification of being.”

Heidegger, as an anti-technology proponent, saw the Jews as the embodiment of a technological world that he loathed. He plays down the Holocaust and at times denies the existence of extermination camps in his notebooks.

<http://www.ipost.com/International/Germanphilosopher-blamed-Jews-for-self-destructing-in-Holocaust-391291>



Five Faces Of Judaism By Brother Nathanael Kapner

Most Jews say there are three branches of Judaism. But I say there are five. And all five support Zionism.

First is Reform Judaism.

Reform Jews are very liberal. A large portion of them support homosexual marriages.

Second is Orthodox Judaism.

Orthodox Jews subscribe to the Talmud which denies the Messiahship of Jesus Christ. It also blasphemes Him.

Third is Conservative Judaism...in between Reform and Orthodox.

Conservative Jews tend to like their religion both ways. A little Talmud here and a little tolerance there.

Fourth is Hasidism. Hasids are ultra-religious and waiting for the Messiah.

Many Hasids thought Menachem Schneerson was the ‘moshiach.’

But after praying around his grave for a week hoping he would rise from the dead they left him for a corpse.

Fifth is Atheistic Judaism. This is the largest and most powerful branch of all.

Jews like Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elie Wiesel, Lloyd Blankfein, and Alan Dershowitz would belong to this branch.

They identify as Jews but lean toward secularism.

They play their ‘Jewish card’ to push their agenda. For if you’re against their program then you’re anti Jewish.

For instance, Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court recently said that ‘Americans are ready for homosexual marriages.’

Yet MOST Americans are against deviant sexual acts such as a man having sex with another man’s anus...yet they’re not anti Jewish.

No matter, the fifth branch of Judaism, atheist to the core...beginning at the highest bench will shove their agenda down our throats.

I’m so glad I left Judaism!

Not only is it bankrupt, it’s destroying America.

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<http://www.realjewnews.com/?p=1006>

From the Archives:
The Assimilation Holocaust

Op-Ed: Jewish Community Collapse Disorder

Why the Reform Movement is trying to get a foothold in Israel (see Anat Hoffman of the Women of the Wall) and why they shouldn't be given one, May 22, 2013



Dr. Harold Goldmeier

**The writer is a former Research and Teaching
Fellow at Harvard University...**

Intermarriage is so prevalent in America, Europe and South America, that once vibrant Jewish communities in small cities and towns are collapsing and disappearing. The numbers from recent population studies so alarm Israel's leaders they spent one million dollars on an ad campaign called MASA to convince Jews to marry Jews. Israel's Jewish Agency chief Natan Sharansky, an expert on assimilation, witnessing communities of Russian Jews disappear, is giving up on large scale aliyah from Western countries. He is funneling resources to strengthen Jewish identity and salvage Jewish communities outside Israel.

Adding traction and intellectual gravitas to intermarriage, for example, is a vexing narrative from Rachel Shukert, a contributing editor at Tablet Magazine (February 1, 2013). She extolls intermarriage and attacks small-minded parents for feeling bad when their child marries out. She and other like-minded authors shroud the lifestyle in scholastic authenticity. They cloak it as a non-religious, democratic, spiritual energy field casting aside Jewish law and 3,000 years of tradition and continuity. Intermarriage is the brick wall just ahead of Leo Tolstoy's observation, "The Jew is eternal. He is the embodiment of eternity."

The union of Jew marrying non-Jew bore the Fiddler's mark (as in Fiddler on the Roof) of vilification, rejection and parental heartbreak throughout the centuries. Screaming past grudging justification and acceptance in the twentieth century, advocacy and virtue are the watchwords in the twenty-first.

The movement finds its roots in the democratic notions of free society with its antipathy for all forms of discrimination. The movement disavows personal sacrifice for commitment to group identity that preserves culture and tradition.

The result is Jewish Community Collapse Disorder.

On the brink of extinction, one Reform Rabbi in a mid-size Midwestern city laments to me that if it not for the "shiksas" active in his temple, the last congregation would have closed years ago.

On a cold February evening in 1992, seated over dinner in a Chinese restaurant, Jamin Dershowitz tells his father that he and live-in, Irish-Catholic girlfriend Barbara are going to marry. Harvard Law Professor, freehearted advocate for Israel and the Jewish people, and father of Jamin, Alan instinctively responds in Hebrew, "Mazel

tov." Theirs will be an interfaithless marriage, since none at the dinner professes a religious faith in God, as he tells the story in *The Vanishing American Jew*.

Jamin's Orthodox grandmother was devastated at the news, and asked, "What did I do wrong?" Alan knows his grandchildren will likely abandon their Jewish heritage. What bothers this father is that a world without Jews will be "a less noble, a much poorer place in every way that matters." With a sigh, the memory keeper accepts that I'm happy if my son is happy.

Blissful anecdotes about interfaith religious traditions fill the Internet and family magazines. Moving from defense to offense, intermarriage is the latest liberation movement from unjustifiable prejudice, racism, and prideful disdain for all the hurt religion has brought mankind.

Shukert has notched up the literature creating a manifesto for intermarriage. She pillories Jews who oppose intermarriage as wanting to maintain the tribe on the basis of antipathetic religious and cultural intolerance. To her, they harbor the same shocking, noxious feelings as homophobes repressing gay people.

Her comparison turns the stomach of those who give no quarter to racism and intolerance, but love and practice religious preference in soul mates and lifestyles. Shukert is "puzzled...why would you possibly care who someone else wants to sleep with?" Is that all marriage is to her, really?

On the attack, she charges opposing intermarriage is furiously divisive in a global environment, sanctimonious, pissy, and tribalist. Do not, she warns, disapprove of your child's abandonment of his religion, tradition, and continuity. "A child's happiness should never be conditional on her parent's limitations," and it is "wrong (to) demand that their children choose partners on the basis of what makes their parents comfortable."

This drivel appears in Tablet Magazine that offers "A New Read on Jewish Life." TM Together, they promulgate a manifesto for the Jewish community swan song. There is no arguing with her logic from an intellectual perspective, nor from a parental point of view.

It is an epic waste of time and message, but there are things the Jewish leadership can do before it is too late.

New action plans are needed in the face of Jewish Community Collapse Disorder. Momentum is on the side of intermarriage. It cannot be prevented in a free society, but Judaism need not take a back seat to modernity.

Ours is an enriching and fulfilling lifestyle, one that many turn to at lifecycle events. One critical time is when PTA meetings replace lust.

The successful baal tshuva movement reaches out to drifting Jews, and it must employ the same tactics of love and acceptance to intermarrieds. Persuade them to accept Judaism and bring Jewishness into their lives.

We have to extend our horizons, displace our emotions of guilt, shame and rejection when Jews marry out. This will

require a concomitant change in how we currently handle conversions.

The official conversion process today adheres to the strictest narrow interpretations of Jewish Law. It excludes potential converts issuing proclamations that vastly outnumber those from previous generations. Conversion is exhausting, exasperating, and nearly impossible now. A more user-friendly process can give new trajectory to Jewish continuity. Instead of abandoning them, bring them in. If they don't become

part of our community will their children return, or are we writing them off too?

Shukert is considered "a hugely funny, wildly smart, and menacingly original writer." She and her husband, Ben Abramowitz, cast curses on Republican Jews during the last election. Let's hope one of them will not likely be our destiny: "May your grandchildren baptize you after you're dead."

Shukert knows how to spin a good curse.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/13328#.VOVwnvmUeVA>

Abraham's Drifting Children

By JONATHAN ROSEN, March 30, 1997

Alan Dershowitz warns that if intermarriage trends continue, American Jewry will disappear

Even before the recent disclosures that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright was born Jewish, there were growing signs of what might be called American Marrano culture. Of course the Jews of Spain hid their faith out of fear of the Inquisition, while in America it is the children of a tolerant society who are threatening to transform Judaism into a religion of half-remembered rituals, forgotten ancestors and buried beliefs. Still, American Marranos, like the Spanish Jews before them, are changing the culture around them, because when Judaism goes underground, strange new things come into flower.

This is the world that Alan M. Dershowitz enters in "The Vanishing American Jew." Mr. Dershowitz, the outspoken Harvard law professor famous for taking on cases that buck the odds, would like to reverse the tide of assimilation, but he would like to do it without violating his own liberal beliefs in tolerance, inclusiveness and reason. Given the fact that tolerance, inclusiveness and reason are not the things that typically keep religion alive, he is facing his toughest case yet. Mr. Dershowitz, who has traveled the country and spoken to thousands of Jewish audiences since the publication of his 1991 book, "Chutzpah," has a strong fix on a central crisis that he believes is facing American Jews today. Noting the statistic that since 1988 the intermarriage rate has been over 50 percent, and adding to that figure the low birth rates of non-Orthodox Jews, Mr. Dershowitz observes that "if trends continue apace, American Jewry -- indeed, Diaspora Jewry -- may virtually vanish by the third quarter of the 21st century."

Intermarriage is not a mere abstract statistical matter for Mr. Dershowitz. The wound at the heart of the book is the marriage of his son Jamin to Barbara, a Roman Catholic. Mr. Dershowitz is at his best when he describes his own complex reaction to the news: "I was genuinely happy at Jamin's obvious joy and excitement over his forthcoming marriage, but happiness was not my only emotion." Though he quickly assures his son -- and the reader -- of his full acceptance of Jamin's decision, Mr. Dershowitz makes it clear that on an emotional level he is profoundly troubled by the realization that his grandchildren "would not be Jews, at least not under the Orthodox and Conservative religious definition of who is a Jew." Mr. Dershowitz's mother -- who continues to practice the Orthodoxy Mr. Dershowitz gradually abandoned after his move to Cambridge -- is blunter in her response. "What did I do wrong?" she wants to know. Mr. Dershowitz's book is, in some sense, his

attempt to persuade her -- and himself -- that no one did anything wrong. It can even be seen as an attempt to explain that his son's two children, despite the view of Jewish law, are in fact Jewish.

One of things that makes Mr. Dershowitz's book a slippery one is that the bad news continually turns into good news, and the good news into bad. For example, the reasons that the future of Judaism is in danger all point, ironically, to the very success Mr. Dershowitz touted in "Chutzpah," his paean to Jewish assertiveness. No longer barred from neighborhoods, country clubs or colleges, as they were only two generations ago, American Jews have been catapulted into the open arms of mainstream America. The problem is that most American Jews, lacking positive reasons to remain Jewish, are ill equipped to deal with the virtual disappearance of institutional anti-Semitism.

For Mr. Dershowitz this is not, primarily, a religious matter. He believes that American Jews need to develop a durable secular culture able to give a permanent home to Jews outside the orbit of traditional observance. An over-reliance on the Orthodox definition of Judaism has left the drifting sons and daughters of assimilated parents with no place to go but out. The chutzpah he once argued Jews need in the face of Christian America he now feels secular Jews need in the face of traditional Jewish culture. He seems to associate Rabbinic Judaism with the anti-Semitism that surrounded it for hundreds of years. For a free American society, something freer is needed, a Judaism bound not to revelation at Sinai or Jewish law but to -- something else. Just what that something else is he struggles to define for most of his book. It lives more in the realm of rhetoric than practice: "We more-secular Jews must create a new Jewish state of mind -- and way of life -- that directly reflects the Jewish values we care about." Though far from antireligious, Mr. Dershowitz has a rather chauvinistic view of secular Judaism. "The great paradox of Jewish life," he writes, "is that virtually all of the positive values we identify with Jews -- compassion, creativity, contributions to the world at large, charity, a quest for education -- seem more characteristic of Jews who are closer to the secular end of the Jewish continuum than to

The Vanishing American Jew In Search of Jewish Identity for the Next Century.

By Alan M. Dershowitz.

395 pp. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. \$24.95.

the ultra-Orthodox end." These are bold words coming from a man who grew up in Borough Park, Brooklyn, and went to yeshiva for years.

Mr. Dershowitz is proud of his Orthodox upbringing but he is prouder of the way he is now. He does not see why the pendulum should swing from religious devotion to disaffection and back again in an endless cycle of rejection and return. Can't it just stay in one place -- the place Mr. Dershowitz has himself arrived at? It is almost as if Mr. Dershowitz would like to re-create and mass produce the essence of his own experience: an Orthodox childhood anchoring a secular adulthood; memories of anti-Semitic America neutralized by a sense of obstacles overcome; a passion for Israel born during the state's earliest and most innocent days; a dark awareness of the Holocaust tempered by boundless optimism about the future.

The difficulty of passing on a religion parsed into ethical or historical pieces is clear from the author's encounter with his son. Mr. Dershowitz admits that for all his closeness to Jamin, he has failed to communicate to him the mysterious bond he himself feels to his people. That is hardly surprising, given his wish to view Judaism as a civilization like "the American, Greek or Roman civilizations." Mr. Dershowitz is not the first person to attempt such a project. He frequently alludes to Mordechai Kaplan, the great American rabbi who decades ago coined the phrase "Judaism as a civilization." But the Reconstructionist movement Rabbi Kaplan created never abandoned ritual observance and, in recent years, has

made room for the transcendence it once defined itself against.

Like most people tackling questions of Jewish continuity, Mr. Dershowitz is much better at identifying problems than solving them. He is certainly right in observing that divisions between the increasingly militant Orthodox and the drifting secular are becoming untenable. He correctly deplores the abysmal state of most Jewish education. And he is right that new Jewish leadership is desperately needed to suit the needs of the next century. Mr. Dershowitz would like to be part of such a leadership. He would like to make sure, for one thing, that people like his grandchildren remain Jews. But he makes it clear from the outset that in his mind they already are. The book is dedicated to them, and to their parents, Jamin and Barbara. "New links in an old chain," Mr. Dershowitz writes with characteristic optimism and audacity. Only time will tell whether he is indeed leading them back to Judaism or merely following them into the wilderness.

Jonathan Rosen is the cultural editor of *The Forward*. His novel, "Eve's Apple," will be published next month.

[More on Jews in America, from the New York Times Archives](#)

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/97/03/30/reviews/970330.30rosent.html>

PRESS RELEASE – Political Arrest Imminent

This is a joint press release by the UDF and other interested parties

23 February 2015



Former Director of SARB Faces Criminal Charge and Arrest

... for disclosing secret criminal dealings of the South African Reserve Bank

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YddkvGOzzbs>

On Monday, 16 February 2015 **Stephen Goodson**, former independent non-executive director of the South African Reserve Bank (2003-2012) and UBUNTU Party Parliamentary candidate in the 2014 general election, was interviewed at Kleinmond police station by Colonel Adriaan Schilz of the Directorate Priority Crime Investigation unit (Hawks) in Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr Goodson, who was assisted by his legal adviser, is **being investigated on suspicion of having committed a "crime"**, by disclosing secret dealings of the SARB, and what Goodson has called *"various criminal activities which have taken place at the Reserve Bank over a long period of time."*

Mr Goodson was able to express himself in a vigorous manner. Unfortunately Colonel Schilz was ill-prepared and appeared to be out of his depth on the knowledge

about the true nature, origins and ownership of the SARB, which is outlined in great detail in Stephen Goodson's book, ***"Inside the South African Reserve Bank - Its Origins and Secrets Exposed."***

Colonel Schilz clearly struggled to follow Mr Goodson's explanations. After an extended interview, Schilz terminated the meeting out of sheer exasperation.

This action simply highlights the secretive activity of SARB and the secrecy clause that protects this establishment from being exposed, and prevents ordinary people who have been harmed by its actions from attaining justice.

Furthermore, it clearly highlights the fact that the SARB operates above the law and masquerades as both a private corporation and a government institution protected by legislature.

Mr Goodson strenuously denies having committed any "crime" for the following reasons.

*In his letter of appointment dated 27 August 2003 there is no mention of him having to comply with a secrecy clause.

*The secrecy clause, section 33 of the SA Reserve Bank Act, which the bank is relying on, specifically states that directors and bank officials may not disclose any information relating to the bank's activities without permission. It does not include ex-independent non-executive directors in its ambit.

*Section 33 was not present in the Banking and Currency Act of 1920 and the SA Reserve Bank Act of 1944, and was introduced in to the 1989 Act by then

governor, Chris Stals, in order to prevent any leaks regarding Operation Hammer, which involved the heist of 3,000 tons of South Africa's strategic gold reserve, which was stored at Kloten Airport, Zurich. This gold was subsequently used to bail out insolvent banks in New York.

*The Reserve Bank is not a government department, but a private corporation with private shareholders and is regulated by the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. The latter bank is also a private corporation with private shareholders and is ultimately controlled by various banking families such as the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers.

*The Reserve Bank, in flagrant violation of all norms and legal procedures, has abused its powers and deceived the SA Police into investigating this alleged "crime", which is strictly a CIVIL matter. It should be noted that the SA Police is one of the most disreputable police services in the world. Its previous Commissioner of Police, Bheki Cele, was fired after being involved in a property swindle valued at over R1.7 billion (\$145 million), while his predecessor, Jackie Selebi, a former head of Interpol, was jailed for 15 years for countless acts of corruption.

Mr Goodson points out that internationally no action has been taken against recent whistleblowers who have contravened the strict secrecy clauses of their employers.

*Karen Hudes, who was for over 20 years legal counsel at the World Bank, has disclosed improper accounting, corruption and criminal behaviour.

*Greg Smith, former vice president of Goldman Sachs, has written a book "Why I left Goldman Sachs", detailing unethical behaviour, ripping off of clients, mortgage backed securities fraud etc.

This matter will now be referred to the public prosecutor. In the event of Mr Goodson being found guilty and being convicted by an Admiralty court of law for the "crime" of having told the truth, he faces paying a fine of R4,000 (\$340) or one year in prison or both.

We will be releasing an open letter to the media, government and the people of South Africa about the alleged criminal activity of the SARB, and the private banks that fall under the SARB's control, which will aim to inform the ignorant politicians and people of our land of how our country has been stolen from us by a secretive group of international bankers who operate from Basel, Switzerland and control every aspect of our government and financial & economic policy.

***Mr Goodson can be reached via email at:**

abolishusury@sonicmail.co.za

***Tebogo Malema – UDF**

Email: tebogo.malema@gmail.com

AND

***Michael Tellinger - UBUNTU Party Leader.**

www.ubuntu-party.org.za

Email: michaeljtellinger@gmail.com

Horst Mahler



Zensur durch BRDisrael am 05.10.2012

12 Jahre Haft für die Wahrheit!

**Anstaltsleiterin
JVA Brandenburg
Anton-Saefkow-Allee 22a
D-14772 Brandenburg
Deutschland
20. Februar 2015**

Sehr geehrte Frau Anstaltsleiterin,

Sie haben einen privaten Brief von Horst Mahler an seine Ehefrau angehalten, weil dieser eine Kopie von Mahlers Leserbrief an die Redaktion der „FAZ“ beinhaltet hat. Als Begründung wurde angegeben, dass der Leserbrief das Vollzugsziel gefährde. Das Vollzugsziel ist die Herstellung der Fähigkeit, ein straffreies Leben zu führen.

Es ist immer peinlich, überdeutliche Tatsachen einer vermutlich gebildeten Person erklären zu müssen.

RA Horst Mahler ist kein Taschendieb oder Einbrecher, von denen erwartet werden könnte, sich durch das Absitzen einer Strafe zu reformieren. Es geht bei Herrn Mahler nicht um eine Handlung, sondern um einen Denkprozess. Die überwältigende Mehrheit der normalen Bürger Europas, auch wenn sie die Meinungen Herrn Mahlers nicht teilen, glauben auch nicht, dass ein Mann inhaftiert werden sollte aufgrund der Äußerung seiner Gedanken. Als zivilisierte Person glauben Sie, Frau Anstaltsleiterin, sicher auch nicht, dass "Gedankenverbrechen" eine Straftat ist.

Dass es aber eine ist in der "freiheitlichsten und gerechtesten Ordnung, die Deutschland je hatte" (Merkel, 1.1.2009), heisst trotzdem nicht, dass es das Vollzugsziel im Fall Horst Mahlers sein kann, seinen Gedankenprozess umzuwandeln. In diesem Fall ist der Übeltäter eher derjenige, der einem 78-Jährigen wegen seiner Sichtweisen Jahrzehnte seines Lebens geraubt hat.

Ich bitte Sie, Herrn Mahler doch aus gesundem Menschenverstand das Mindestmaß an Mitgefühl zu zeigen und ihm zu erlauben, seiner Ehefrau ungestört Briefe zu senden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Gerard Menuhin

E-Mail-Adresse: g.menuhin@gmail.com

General Manager

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GERMANY

20 February 2015

Dear Madam,

You have withheld a private letter from Horst Mahler to his wife because it contained a copy of Mahler's letter to the editor of the "FAZ". The reason for this action states that the letter to the editor would endanger the penal process. The aim of this process is rehabilitation and then living life with impunity.

It is always embarrassing having to explain obvious facts to a presumably educated person.

Lawyer Horst Mahler is not a pickpocket or burglar of whom one could expect rehabilitation after serving out a sentence. The case of Horst Mahler deals not with a criminal act but with a thought process. The overwhelming majority of average European citizens do not believe that a man should be jailed for expressing his thoughts, even if they do not share Mr Mahler's opinions. Madam, as a civilized person, surely you do not believe that a 'thought crime' is a punishable offence.

Even though it is such "in the most liberal and just order Germany ever had" (Merkel 1.1.2009), does not mean, that the goal of the enforcement in the case of Horst Mahler should be to transform his thinking processes. If that is the case, then the culprit is rather the one who has robbed a 78-year-old man decades of his life on account of his held views.

I beg you to show Mr Mahler a minimum of compassion and allow him to send unhindered letters to his wife.

Kind regards,

Gerard Menuhin

E-mail address: g.menuhin@gmail.com

NIAC Runs Full Page NY Times Ad on Netanyahu Visit

Press Release by [National Iranian American Council \(NIAC\)](#)

Washington, DC - Today (Thursday, February 19th, 2015), the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) is running a [full-page ad](#) in the New York Times highlighting John Boehner and Benjamin Netanyahu's outrageous political stunt that could kill diplomacy with Iran and start a war.

"The U.S. and its closest allies are on the brink of a historic deal that will both prevent an Iranian bomb and war with Iran, and Congressional hawks are orchestrating political stunts with foreign leaders to try to kill it," said NIAC President Trita Parsi. "The American people do not want another senseless military adventure and certainly don't consider Benjamin Netanyahu to be their commander in chief."

The NIAC ad provides a call-in number and [website](#) for Americans concerned by Netanyahu's address and supportive of a diplomatic approach to Iran to contact their lawmakers and urge them to skip Netanyahu's address and support the negotiations.

A recent CNN poll found that a majority of 63% of Americans oppose Boehner's invitation to Netanyahu, which was orchestrated without notifying the White House.

"All doubt has been removed: Netanyahu will oppose any peaceful deal with Iran and will instead seek to blow up the diplomatic efforts of the United States and risk starting a war," said Parsi. "Congress better take into account that if they buy what Netanyahu is selling, it will be American troops who pay the cost."

NIAC's ad also highlights that, in one of the most critical national security debates of our time - the decision of whether

to invade Iraq - Netanyahu was brought to testify before Congress. In his remarks he advocated strongly for the war, telling lawmakers 'if you take out Saddam's regime, I guarantee you it will have enormous positive reverberations on the region.' "After a decade marked by thousands of American casualties, suicide bombings, massive regional destabilization, and now the ascendance of ISIS, it is clear that Netanyahu and those who lobbied for the Iraq war are in no position to give Congress further advice," said Parsi. "There is an opportunity to stop the next catastrophic war before it starts, and that only happens if diplomacy is allowed to succeed."

Negotiations between the P5+1 and Iran are ongoing, with a target of securing a framework agreement in March and a final nuclear agreement by June 30.

"If the U.S. and its partners can secure an Iran deal in the coming weeks, the same people who promised that war with Iraq would be a cakewalk will tell Americans we should reject an Iran deal and eventually take our chances with another war," said Parsi. "The fact that Congress is giving Netanyahu a platform to repeat this message is a very troubling sign, but I think the majority of Americans will take action to ensure we do embrace this historic opportunity and avoid the grave mistakes of the past."

... Payvand News - 02/20/15 ... -



COMMENTS:

[magic123](#) • [2 days ago](#)

Thanks NIAC for standing up for diplomacy and taking a brave stand against the most powerful political lobby in the world.

Name: Speaker John Boehner
Date: March 3, 2015

1) Who is our Commander in Chief?

(A)  

2) The Iraq war:

(A) "...will only fan the flames of the Middle East." - Barack Obama, 2002

(B) "I guarantee you that it will have enormous positive reverberations on the region." - Benjamin Netanyahu, 2002

3) What is the best way to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran?

(A) A diplomatic agreement

(B) Another war

WILL CONGRESS SIDE WITH OUR PRESIDENT OR A FOREIGN LEADER?

President Obama is on the verge of a diplomatic victory that will prevent war and prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. But Congressional hawks are bringing Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to Capitol Hill to push for new sanctions that could kill the talks and start a war.

CALL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT DIPLOMACY, NOT WAR: 1-844-ACT-NIAC

niacouncil.org/NoIranWar



It is extremely encouraging to see Americans waking up in a big way to the destructive elements of the Zionist regime. Netanyahu is a war monger with a very big persecution complex. He is genocidal and only promotes destruction. Well done America, Its great to see the worlds biggest superpower finally representing the peaceful loving people of this mad mad world.

[IranNC dot ORG](http://IranNC.org) • 2 days ago

As an Iranian, I don't support negotiating with a terrorist regime. They have lied over and over to the international community and their own people. These mullahs cannot be trusted. History shows that they are not after peaceful nuclear energy. They had a covert operation enriching uranium. This government is only after it's own survival and will do anything to stay in power. Don't be fooled by them. Also NIAC is backed up by the reformist factions in Iran. They are the lobbying arm of the Islamic Republic. As a democrat Iranian, I do not believe that this Islamic regime is capable of reform. Therefore, negotiation with them only makes the regime stronger and gives them the legitimacy they have been craving for the past 35 years. Don't make any deals with the DEVIL. What I don't understand about the Westerners is that how many times do they have to be deceived by these mullahs before they learn that they are not trustworthy? They want to negotiate so that they can be in a position to get the bomb only in one year after they decide to build it. The mullahs will never give up the atomic bomb. Don't be fooled by these smiling mullahs. The only solution is to support those Iranians inside the country who believe in the same values as the rest of the world believes in. They don't want this government. They want to overthrow them. But as long as the Western governments keep dealing with these Islamic clerics, the young people will have a very difficult time going against them. STOP negotiating with the terrorist government and support the Iranian secular movement in Iran. Obama did not support us in 2009 and that is why this government is still in power. Tell your lawmakers you want the to support the young Iranians who are trying to get rid of this regime and forget about supporting or dealing with the mullahs. once a mullah, always a mullah. We love our Jewish and Christian borthers and sisters. We are all one. This regime does not represent the majority of us.

[Piere IranNC dot ORG](http://IranNC.org) • 4 hours ago

I agree with you 100% me too, do not trust the lying regime with over 200 atomic bombs, owner of the biggest Concentration camp, Jailer of Innocent people & the biggest war monger in the world. we are talking about ISRAEL!

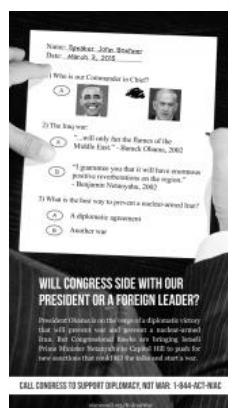
[Raad IranNC dot ORG](http://IranNC.org) • 19 hours ago

@iranNC.org, as an Iranian, you are incredibly uninformed.

<http://www.payvand.com/news/15/feb/1097.html>

Anti-Netanyahu Campaign Stoops to Antisemitism

Author: [Moshe Phillips and Benjamin Korn](#)
FEBRUARY 20, 2015 1:31 PM [24 COMMENTS](#)



A full-page ad in The New York Times asks "Who is Our Commander in Chief?" which promotes the anti-Jewish theory that Israel is trying to control the US government. Photo: NIAC.

The campaign against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress has reached a new low, crossing the line that divides criticism of Israel from the darkest antisemitic canards.

We do not use the term "antisemitism" lightly. Criticism of individual Israeli leaders or specific Israeli government policies is of course perfectly legitimate. But every sober-minded observer understands that criticism of Israel is sometimes just a thin mask for promoting anti-Jewish stereotypes and conspiracy theories.

The campaign of whispers, leaks and rumors against Prime Minister Netanyahu this week dropped that mask and began

promoting one of the ugliest anti-Jewish canards: that Israel is trying to control the United States government.

A full-page ad in *The New York Times* on Feb. 19 featured photos of a smiling President Obama and a scowling Prime Minister Netanyahu, under the headline: "Who is our Commander in Chief?"

The message could not have been more clear: the Israelis –the Zionists, the pro-Israel lobby, the Jews– are trying to turn Israel's prime minister into America's commander in chief.

The ad proceeds to accuse Netanyahu and pro-Israel congressmen of trying to "start a war" by opposing President Obama's deal with Iran. "The Jews are dragging us into a war" is one of the oldest antisemitic lies in circulation.

One of the most notorious examples of this line is the infamous speech by Charles Lindbergh to an "America First" rally in Iowa in 1941. He charged that "Jewish groups in this country" are "agitating for war" (against Nazi Germany).

"Jews (or Zionists, or Israelis) controlling the government" is another well-worn slur. It received a huge boost in 2007, with the publication of "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," by Professors John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, which argued that Israel and its lobby in Washington control America's Mideast policy and dragged America into the Iraq war. Not surprisingly, the book received fulsome praise from those who dislike Israel, such as former Carter administration national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

According to Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League, Mearsheimer and Walt were promoting "a classic antisemitic canard about Jews, having disproportionate power and control, that Jews only care about themselves." Even Aaron Miller, a former State Department peace processor known for his pro-Palestinian slant, characterized Mearsheimer and Walt's thesis as "a dangerous, dark trope" that "coexists with other hateful and, yes, antisemitic canards about how Jews control the media and the banks, and the world as well."

So who sponsored the Feb. 19 ad? The average reader of the *New York Times* would not be able to tell, because for some reason the sponsoring organization tried to obscure its identity. Instead of listing its name and officers, it simply listed a web site– niacouncil.org. Those who visit that site discover that the sponsor is the National Iranian-American Council (NIAC), a

group with an innocent-sounding name but with a not-very-innocent agenda.

NIAC lobbies to end US sanctions on Iran, and urges Americans to be more conciliatory toward the Iranian regime. Last month, it circulated a fundraising appeal accusing Congress of "following Israel's lead on Iran," complete with a distorted quote from a senator allegedly saying to the Israelis, "We will follow your lead."

NIAC's founder and director is Trita Parsi, a young Iranian-American academic who authored a book about US-Israel relations called "Treacherous Alliance." The title alone speaks volumes. Zbigniew Brzezinski called it "penetrating" and "very timely." No surprise there.

Two important questions arise.

First, several mainstream former US officials, such as ex-Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering, ex-Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Limbert, and ex-Congressmen Wayne Gilchrist, and Jim Moody, are members of the NIAC Advisory Board. Will they remain on the board, despite the group's despicable ad in the *New York Times*?

Second, was the ad coordinated with anybody in the White House? The question must be asked, not only because the ad's message coincides with the Obama administration's attacks on the Israeli government, but because, according to Omri Ceren in Commentary, Parsi "has been called to the White House, lectured at the CIA and visited Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. He boasted in internal e-mails that he learned of Mr. Obama's speech to Iranians on the occasion of the Persian New Year in March [2010] several hours before it was posted on the Internet." Dr. Parsi needs to explain when was the last time he had contact with any White House official, and what did they discuss?

*

Moshe Philips is president and Benjamin Korn is chairman of the Religious Zionists of America, Philadelphia, and both are candidates on the Religious Zionist slate - www.VoteTorah.org - in the World Zionist Congress elections.

*

<http://www.algemeiner.com/2015/02/20/antin Netanyahu-campaign-stoops-to-antisemitism/>





COUNTRIES ATTACKED BY BOMBING, SABOTAGE OR ATTEMPTED GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW SINCE WORLD WAR TWO

IRAN



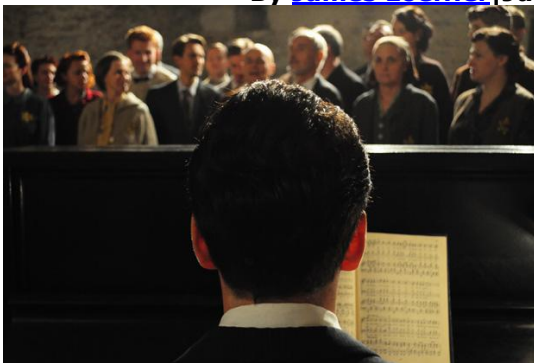
USA

China 1945-46	Argentina 1976
Syria 1949	Turkey 1980
Korea 1950-53	Poland 1980-81
China 1950-53	El Salvador 1981-92
Iran 1953	Nicaragua 1981-1990
Guatemala 1954	Cambodia 1980-95
Tibet 1955-70s	Angola 1980
Indonesia 1958	Lebanon 1982-84
Cuba 1959	Grenada 1983-84
Democratic Republic of the Congo 1960-65	Philippines 1986
Iraq 1960-63	Libya 1986
Dominican Republic 1961	Iran 1987-88
Vietnam 1961-73	Libya 1989
Brazil 1964	Panama 1989-90
Belgian Congo 1964	Iraq 1991
Guatemala 1964	Kuwait 1991
Laos 1964-73	Somalia 1992-94
Dominican Republic 1965-66	Iraq 1992-1996
Peru 1965	Bosnia 1995
Greece 1967	Iran 1998
Guatemala 1967-69	Sudan 1998
Cambodia 1969-70	Afghanistan 1998
Chile 1970-73	Yugoslavia - Serbia 1999
	Afghanistan 2001
	Iraq 2002-3
	Somalia 2006-2007
	Iran 2005-present
	Libya 2011

Why the New 'Holocaust Music' Is an Insult to Music—and to Victims of the Shoah

A recent wave of performances turns Jewish composers into shadow images defined only by their status as Hitler's victims

By [James Loeffler](#) | July 11, 2013 12:00 AM | [Comments: 26](#)



A scene from the documentary *Defiant Requiem: Voices of Resistance* re-enacting Raphael Schacter playing piano in front of the Terezin Choir. (Partisan Pictures)

In the never-ending search for ways to remember the Holocaust, the newest media contrivance to appear is "Holocaust Music." National Public Radio recently [profiled](#) an Italian conductor who has embarked on a quixotic campaign to record every note of music composed inside a Nazi concentration camp. Two months ago, New York's Lincoln Center played host to the *Defiant Requiem*, a traveling revue that [presents](#) a dramatic reenactment of a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* that took place

in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II. The concert tour has crisscrossed the globe, with headquarters in a summer institute in the Czech Republic. A related documentary [film](#) has aired on PBS. On the face of it, these artistic efforts certainly sound legitimate. Aren't they merely the musical analogue to the literature depicting the horrors of the Holocaust?

They are not. In fact, I'd argue that these efforts represent a tragically misconceived approach that distorts the memory of the Holocaust and slights the very musicians that they purport to honor.

The late Jewish philosopher Emil Fackenheim spoke of the 614th commandment: not to grant Hitler posthumous victories. Yet one of Hitler's lasting achievements was to leave behind an anti-Semitic myth, acquired from Richard Wagner, that Jews possess no music of their own. Not only did the Holocaust send many composers into exile and worse, it also killed a decades-long effort to build a Jewish school in modern classical music.

Now, by labeling certain works of art as "Holocaust music," we risk creating a genre that turns the details of history and the complex meanings of music into one saccharine lesson in universalist tolerance. It may sound like heresy to criticize a pious act of Holocaust remembrance. But the true heresy is to turn Jewish composers into shadow images defined only by their status as Hitler's victims.

There is something undeniably compelling about the recovery of lost and forgotten music. Silenced Jewish voices, particularly from the august realm of classical music, stir our imagination as an immediate link to the aural texture of the past. And the stories of the thousands of Jewish musicians banned, exiled, and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators share a special poignancy given the centrality of Jews to modern European musical life. Which is why, for decades, scholars and musicians have worked assiduously to recover the lives and music of the Nazi victims. Organizations such as the [OREL Foundation](#), [ORT](#), and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum consistently deliver both music and history with equal accuracy. But these efforts now risk being overshadowed by the new age of multimedia Holocaust music experience.

In theory, the [KZ-Musik](#) project of Francesco Lotoro is a noble endeavor. A Catholic Italian who converted to Judaism in 2004, Lotoro has spent years collecting musical manuscripts and recording them. To date, 24 CDs have been issued. The works all come from composers who suffered imprisonment or worse at the hands of the Nazis. Their music was in many cases neglected or partially destroyed.

Yet Lotoro's construction of a hierarchy of suffering—only incarcerated composers are included in the series, and only music written inside camps—falsifies the very history it purports to recover. This artificial delimitation ignores the full sweep of the Nazi campaign to make Western music *judenrein*. Where is Paul Ben-Haim in this story? The German Jewish composer left Munich for Tel Aviv in 1933, where he became a founding father of Israeli art music. What of Walter Braunfels? The half-Jewish German composer spent the war in internal exile in Germany and saw his music—the last great burst of German Romanticism—suppressed as “degenerate.” Where is the composer Mieczysław Weinberg? The Polish-born Jewish composer fled the Nazis twice—from independent Poland into the Soviet Byelorussia, then again into the Russian interior—and his wartime works are among the most searing contemporaneous responses to the Nazi genocide. Yet none of these composers finds a place in the Italian recording series, since they don't fit this particular definition of what a Nazi musical victim should be.

A collector's item achieves value by virtue of its provenance: In the case of Holocaust music, a concentration camp tattoo or its equivalent has become a sick kind of stamp of approval for art—one that demands that listeners surrender artistic judgment to the straightjacket of prefab morality and political meaning. It is a seductive fiction that suffering ennobles art. In Lotoro's project, for example, musical gems are interspersed with throwaway sketches that fail to do justice to the composers' varied talents.

If the *KZ-Musik* series is misguided in its literal-mindedness, the *Defiant Requiem* concert-drama is perverse in its artistic excesses. The project has its origins in a real story of Jewish prisoners at the Terezin concentration camp near Prague who performed Verdi's *Requiem* 16 times over the course of 1943 and 1944. The Nazis permitted the Jews to stage music and theater for propaganda purposes and to distract them from their impending deportation to the death camps. This is a dramatic, even moving historical episode that deserves to be remembered, analyzed, and discussed. What it doesn't deserve is to be recreated as a virtual multimedia extravaganza.

The *Defiant Requiem* is replete with factual errors and historical distortions in the name of a theme of spiritual resistance. In some versions, actors reportedly wore striped pajamas—though their real-life models in Terezin did not. An entire orchestra is deployed to back up the chorus and soloists, though the inmates had only a piano at their disposal. Film images, narration, train whistles, and various other stage tricks turn a story of victimhood and desperation into a one-dimensional parable of art's redemptive powers while the anodyne American Jewish summer camp hymn “Oseh shalom bimromav” is interpolated as a salvic prayer for world peace.

The *Defiant Requiem* focuses on a thin sliver of silver lining to a story that was fundamentally tragic: The musicians of Terezin may have been defiant, but they were also decimated. The Verdi Terezin episode was a one-time event—restaging it over and over again ironically turns Latin liturgy into the prime Jewish musical statement of the Holocaust. Indeed, some Terezin inmates strongly criticized the original performances because they considered a Jewish staging of a Christian funeral mass in front of Nazi captors to be a moral and religious capitulation. That some participants drew a measure of comfort from the music must be balanced against the images of Adolf Eichmann and other Nazi dignitaries clapping happily at the end of the performances. These complex issues are left behind in the wake of a cultural juggernaut that, with backing from the German EVZ Foundation, now aspires to become part of the field of American human-rights education. An online [curriculum](#) tailored for American middle schools and high schools links the story of Terezin to more recent hot-button issues, including South Africa, the former Yugoslavia, the American government's rejection of the International Criminal Court, and U.N. peacekeeping efforts.

By celebrating Jewish musicians for their performance of a Catholic mass (written in homage to an Italian nationalist leader), the *Defiant Requiem* propagates the persistent anti-Semitic trope, albeit unintentionally, that Jews can only express themselves artistically by borrowing and corrupting European Christian music. By fetishizing a musical repertoire because of its origins in physical spaces of persecution, and highlighting captivity as the primary characteristic of European Jewish composers, the *KZ-Musik* project sends a similarly misleading message.

Built into the very idea of “Holocaust music” is an element of emotional manipulation. Artists and audiences who engage in this endeavor may think they are honoring the past and grappling with hard truths. But in reality they are indulging in a form of psychological play-acting. They imagine the music to contain a pre-set, generic Holocaust message that can be activated through performance and listening. But no art, even that which is produced in the most extreme conditions, can be reduced to a one-dimensional message, however important. Doing so risks suffocating music by over-inoculating it against the very freedom of interpretation that is the lifeblood of all art. While forgotten composers deserve to be remembered, recovering lost music requires close attention to the actual lives and artistic visions of its composers. Strip-mining the Jewish musical past, even when done with the best of intentions, doesn't serve the goals of remembrance or history. And it doesn't, at least in these two recent instances, make for good music.

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[James Loeffler](#) is the author of *The Most Musical Nation: Jews and Culture in the Late Russian Empire*, newly available in paperback.

RELATED CONTENT



Muted

Performances of Wagner's music are effectively banned in Israel. Should they be?

<http://tabletmag.com/jewishartsandculture/music/137486/holocaust-music-victims>

WARPED MIRROR **Delegitimizing Israel at Southampton University** **By PETRA MARQUARDT-BIGMAN, 02/18/2015 04:43**



In an article on "[Europe's New Anti-Semitism](#)," Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks argued a few years ago that it was important to realize that throughout history, assaults on Jewish life always needed "justification by the highest source of authority in the culture at any given age." For our own time, this means according to Sacks that "any assault on Jewish life – on Jews or Judaism or the Jewish state – must be cast in the language of human rights," which is reflected in "the by-now routine accusation that Israel has committed the five cardinal sins against human rights: racism, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, attempted genocide and crimes against humanity."

Against the backdrop of deadly terrorist attacks on Jews in several European capitals in recent months, some of Europe's political leaders – most notably [French Prime Minister Manuel Valls](#) – have passionately denounced antisemitism and pledged to fight it. Yet, the problem identified by Rabbi Sacks remains, and in the wake of the most recent attacks in Copenhagen, a *Wall Street Journal* [editorial](#) rightly noted that "[e]lite hostility to Israel amplifies street-level anti-Semitism."

Unfortunately it seems that such elite hostility to Israel will be showcased at a conference scheduled for April at the University of Southampton. The [official announcement](#) describes the conference as "a ground-breaking historical event on the road towards justice and enduring peace in historic Palestine." The conference is supposedly "unique because it concerns the legitimacy in International Law of the Jewish state of Israel;" however, as students of antisemitism will know, there is nothing "unique" about singling out the world's only Jewish state for delegitimization.

The conference has been initiated and organized by University of Southampton professor Oren Ben Dor, and his views on the conference's subject are no secret: the intensity of his animus against Israel is nicely illustrated in a [fundraising letter](#) for the conference, where the [Nahariya-born](#) (former) Israeli claims to have grown up "in Palestine."

Ben Dor's fundraising letter notes explicitly that the "conference is fully hosted, and supported by the University of Southampton. The university enables us to use its hospitality services, event organisation, marketing network and financial administration for the organisation, delivery, recording of the conference. It is a remarkable achievement in itself that such a conference will be help [sic] in UK academia."

Indeed, it is remarkable that, almost seven decades after Israel's establishment, the University of Southampton is holding a three-day conference devoted to searching for ways to use international law to deny the world's only Jewish state the right to exist. But arguably, Professor Ben Dor's record of "academic" activism against Israel is hardly less remarkable: it seems that roughly half of the publications listed on his [official university page](#) are either reviews of the writings of anti-Israel propagandists (e.g. Ali Abunimah, Jonathan Cook), or contributions to various "One State" conferences and other supposedly "pro-Palestinian" events focused on the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state. On his [official page](#) outlining his research, Ben Dor emphasizes that his academic work "relates" to his "political activity regarding Palestine, the gist of which is a call for justice and peace in Palestine (in that order)." Ben Dor's writings leave little doubt that as far as he is concerned,

"justice" requires the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state; indeed, Ben Dor has even [asserted](#) that it was time to "legitimate" the "voice" of Hamas, because "understanding this voice as an ethical cry to the world to not allow Israel the right to persist in its racist self-definition is a much better way of articulating the moral message."



This brazen attempt to not only ignore but even whitewash the [genocidal antisemitism and fascism](#) of the Hamas Charter is unfortunately not the only indication that Ben Dor has no hesitation to embrace open anti-Jewish bigotry. The "numerous articles in Counterpunch" that he highlights on his official university page also include a [passionate protest](#) against what Ben Dor calls "the constant attempts to silence Gilad Atzmon."

According to Ben Dor, "It would be an understatement to say that debating Gilad's voice is supremely important. No thinking person could fail to be stimulated by the deep connections Gilad makes." In case you haven't heard of Gilad Atzmon, you could find out more about him on the neo-Nazi Internet forum *Stormfront*, where members [broadly agree](#) with Ben Dor's view that his "voice is supremely important" – indeed, Atzmon's writings are regarded as so important there that they are often shared and posted on the site.



Alternatively, you could have Ben Dor's view about the importance of Atzmon's voice confirmed by former Klan leader and avowed white supremacist [David Duke](#), who [has praised him](#) as "perhaps the bravest and clearest thinking person of Jewish descent in the world."



The admiration is mutual – this is what Atzmon said in an interview last year:

"The left is devastated by David Duke for instance. He was in the KKK when he was young. But here is something quite amazing: I read him and I was shocked to find out that this guy knows more about Jewish identity than I do! How could a supposedly 'racist' Gentile who probably never entered a synagogue knows [sic] more than I do about Judaism? The reason is in fact very simple: he is a proud white man."

One could fill pages upon pages to document Atzmon's well-deserved popularity among Jew-haters, white supremacists and neo-Nazis. So Ben Dor was wrong to complain that Atzmon is being silenced: he gets plenty of publicity at all the sites frequented by bigots looking for their daily dose of stories about Jewish cunning and evil. And Ben Dor himself has repeatedly done his part to [promote Atzmon](#) and his odious views, including

even [hosting him](#) at Southampton University. Why not also invite Duke if the "supremely important" Atzmon recommends him so enthusiastically as an expert on "Jewish identity"?

To what extent Ben Dor actually agrees with Atzmon's "[gutter anti-Semitism](#)" is [hard to ascertain](#) given that he likes to write in a style that reflects his fascination with the now [utterly disgraced](#) German philosopher Martin Heidegger; but there can be little doubt that Ben Dor shares Atzmon's conviction that Israel is an absolute evil that cannot be allowed to exist. While Atzmon has expressed [the view](#) that even Nazi Germany was less evil than Israel, Ben Dor has repeatedly described Israel as utterly immoral and [has denounced](#) the Jewish state as "a terrorist state like no other" and [demanded](#) that "the herrenvolk (master race) nature of its democracy" must be openly debated. Ben Dor certainly knows that it is generally regarded as antisemitic to equate Israel with Nazi Germany and to argue that the world's only Jewish state is too evil to exist. Yet, it seems that this is what Ben Dor is arguing in his political writings, and given his own emphasis on the connection between his academic work and his "political activity regarding Palestine," the planned publication of the proceedings of his conference at the University of Southampton may turn out to be of interest not only for anti-Israel activists in and out of the Ivory Tower, but also for researchers studying 21st-century antisemitism and the 'elite hostility to Israel' that provides ostensibly new justifications for the oldest hatred.

[The oldest hatred is anti-Gentilism, just refer to Jerusalem/Babylonian TALMUD – ed. AI.]

<http://www.jpost.com/Blogs/The-Warped-Mirror/Delegitimizing-Israel-at-Southampton-University-391369>



By [CailenCambeul](#) | Published November 21, 2008
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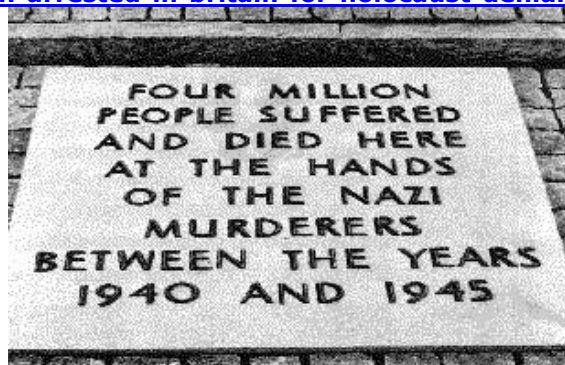
Adelaide resident and campaigner for truth in History, Doctor Frederick Toben will not be extradited from Britain to Germany for his refusal to believe established dogma that falsely claims 6 million jews were exterminated during WWII.

Dr Toben's solicitor, Kevin Lowry-Mullins said: 'The offence is not made out in the UK. If Dr Toben had been extradited back to Germany for Holocaust denial, which does not exist as an offence in this country, then we would have found ourselves in a situation where hypothetically, the Iranian Government could have asked for all the gay Iranian asylum-seekers to be extradited back to Iran.'

The German Government abandoned its claims after the High Court in London decided that British authorities have no legal right to hand Dr Toben over to German authorities if he has not committed an offence under British law.

Previous articles on this matter:

<http://sacreator.com/blog/2008/10/02/fredrick-toben-arrested-in-britain-for-holocaust-denial>



6 million minus 3 million = 6 million?

Visit Doctor Toben's website at:

<http://www.adelaideinstitute.org>

Left the following comment (#26 of 43) on the [Adelaide Advertiser comments page](#) on this matter:

In the 1990s the Polish Government released new figures revising the Jewish deaths in Auschwitz during WWII. This lowered the death toll by 3 million. So why does 6 million minus 3 million = 6 million? Historians should be allowed to openly conduct their own investigations into all matters and not be bullied by the dogma of recalcitrant governments.

Poland lowers Auschwitz toll

30 The Toronto Sun, Wednesday July 18, 1990

WARSAW (UPI) — A government commission has lowered the number of people believed to have perished at Auschwitz during World War II.

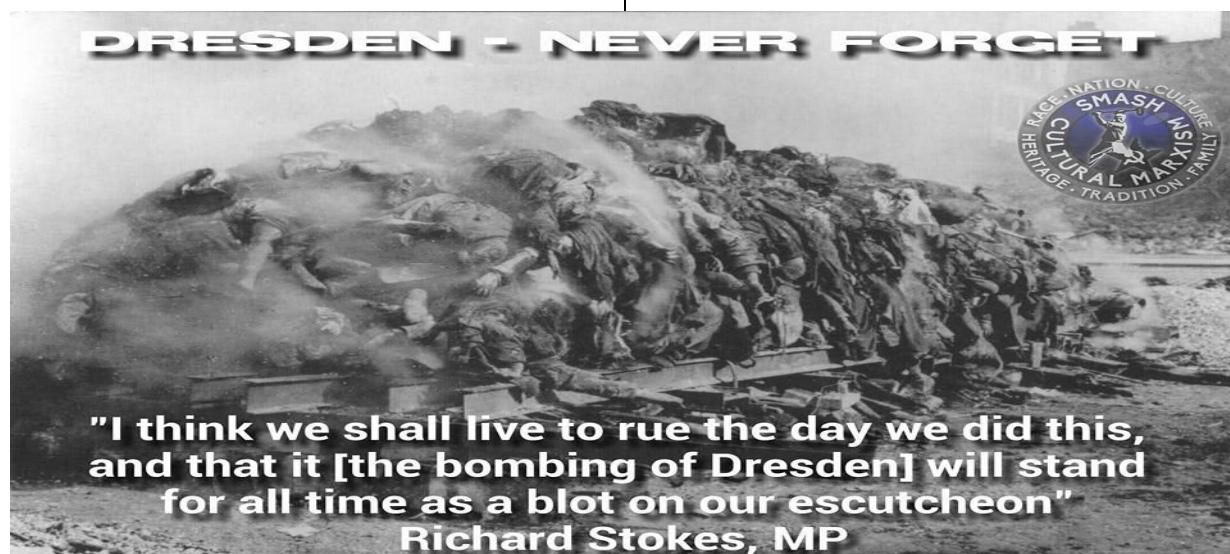
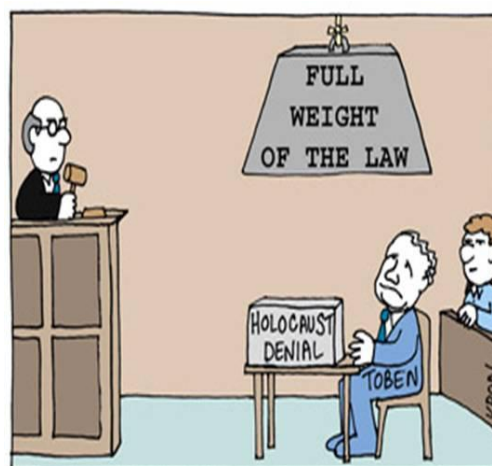
It drops the number from four million to 1.5 million and conceded the overwhelming majority were Jews.

The revision doesn't change the accepted historical figure of six million Jews killed by the Nazis.

The decision to revise the official Auschwitz number was a rejection of figures released after the war by the Soviets, who still have the records kept by the Nazis.

It is also in line with figures used by historians in West Germany, the U.S. and Israel who have documented the number of victims of the Holocaust.

Poland's former communist regime relied on the four-million figure in a bid to make Auschwitz a symbol of Nazi oppression of all peoples, not just the Jews.



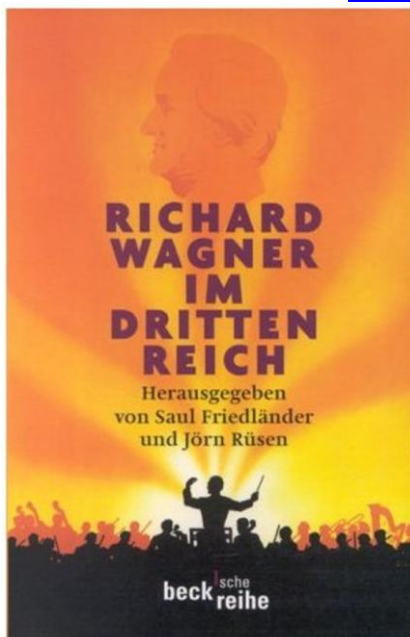


ARMENIAN HOLOCAUST

Here they lay the silent witnesses!
 their silence is an outcry!
 Never Again, Don't Forget!

motifake.com

[A Quick Update on Bernd Weikl's Book](#)



book's publication was severely undermined by the simultaneous [retraction of charges](#) against Wagner of allegedly having single-handedly caused the Holocaust by [Joachim Köhler](#). Weikl's book has since arrived in the mail, and a brief glance at it shows that he has credulously swallowed everything that Köhler has said in his book, quite oblivious to the fact that not even Köhler believes them any more. Köhler is in Weikl's bibliography along with Hartmut Zelinsky and [Theodor Adorno](#). Most importantly, Weikl goes further than any of these previous authors in saying that Hitler **was** Wagner. Hitler was allegedly the 'reincarnation' (*Wiedergeburt*)—sic!—of Wagner.

It also happens in the meanwhile that I am reading some of the latest books by historians studying the Holocaust. In particular, I have read [Mark Roseman's book](#) on the Wannsee Conference and Peter Longerich's [Holocaust](#), updated for the English translation with the latest research driven by the opening up of ex-Soviet archives. In reading these academic historians' writing, you find yourself in a different universe. Nobody is busy running a polemic blaming Wagner, Nietzsche, Marx, Darwin or Luther for having caused the Holocaust. As explained in the [last post](#), that sort of polemic is more a by-product of contemporary culture wars than anything genuinely illuminating about history. However, since he had written the most cogent of all academic responses to [Joachim Köhler](#), I thought it would be interesting to know what a major academic figure in the world of Holocaust studies would make of Bernd Weikl's book. With that I sent an email to Professor Saul Friedländer's academic office at UCLA University. I also sent him a copy of [Joachim Köhler's](#) article

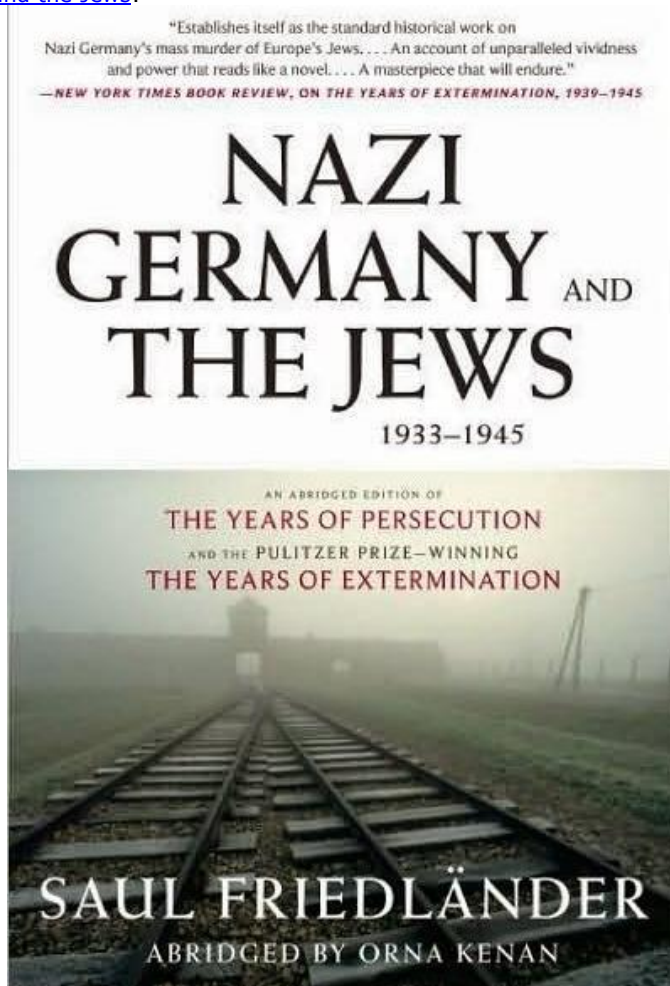
In the [last post](#), we welcomed the publication of the latest [Nazi opera conspiracy](#) book by Bernd Weikl calling for Wagner to be banned in Germany. It was Weikl's great misfortune that the

from the July issue of *The Wagner Journal*. Not personally acquainted with Professor Friedländer, I was pleasantly surprised that within twenty-four hours the world famous historian had replied to my email I had sent to him out of the blue:

Many warm thanks for your message and for the reference to Mr Weikl's writings. I will read them with much interest.

All good wishes,
Saul Friedländer

For those from a music background, Professor Saul Friedländer is an Israeli historian and the author of a several major studies about the Holocaust. The most famous of these is [Nazi Germany and the Jews](#):



There is both a full two-volume version and an abridged version for those who have less patience. Readers who want to learn about the Holocaust should be reading books like these, or the similar three-volume *Third Reich* series by Sir Richard J. Evans. For the latest research on the origins of the Final Solution, [Longerich](#) is probably the most up to date, but [Browning's](#) study is something of a classic. However, readers should not be reading speculative books about Nazi UFOs, [The Occult Reich](#), [Hitler's missing testicle](#), or Nazi opera conspiracies.

Professor Friedländer makes it clear that Richard Wagner's views on the Jews were never once cited by any figure in the *Dritte Reich*. He argues that this is because Wagner's assimilationist views would have been considered 'totally unacceptable' (quoted from *Richard Wagner im Dritten Reich*). Historian, Professor Robert Gerwarth summarises the hostility of Reinhard Heydrich, one of the chief architects of the Final Solution, towards assimilationism:

From [*Heydrich's*] vantage point, the assimilationists who refused to emigrate represented the greatest obstacle to a successful Jewish policy: 'The assimilationists deny their Jewish origins either by claiming that they have lived in this country for

generations and that they are Germans or by maintaining, after getting baptized, that they are Christians,' thereby trying 'to undermine Nazi principles'. [Citation to: Reinhard Heydrich's *Wandlungen unseres Kampfes*; Munich and Berlin, 1936, p.10 ff]

Robert Gerwarth: [Hitler's Hangman—the Life of Heydrich](#); p.95 Yet Weikl makes the unsubstantiated claim that Heydrich's term *Endlösung* or *Final Solution*, came straight from Wagner fully formed, complete with its exterminationist signification. In fact, historians think that not even Heydrich *originally* thought of the Final Solution in genocidal terms, the term only gradually acquiring genocidal overtones with the *cumulative radicalisation* of racial policy. Nor is there any evidence that the term had its origins in Luther, Wagner, or Darwin as self-serving polemicists claim. Unconvinced readers are cordially invited to read through the [minutes of the Wannsee Conference](#) to see if Heydrich ever evokes Luther, Wagner, or Darwin. It is an example of how the more carefully you examine the empirical evidence of the era, the more it becomes clear that Nazi opera conspiracy theories fail to provide a viable alternative historiography of the era.

In the forced emigration phase of Jewish policy, the National Socialist regime was quite happy to encourage emigration to Palestine, but they were never at any point anything other than violently hostile towards assimilation as a policy. In other words, Wagner's assimilationism was worse than Zionism as far as the National Socialists were concerned—a doctrine that tries to 'undermine Nazi principles'. It is little wonder that never at any point in the history of the *Dritte Reich* was Richard Wagner's writings on the Jews officially endorsed, nor party members encouraged to read them. Professor Friedländer is correct: Richard Wagner's assimilationist views on the Jews would have been 'totally unacceptable' to the Party.

Assimilation,

Blind Freddy can see that Richard Wagner called for the 'Assimilation' of the Jews.

From an original period printing of [Das Judentum in der Musik](#)

So, as Professor Richard J. Evans states, any attempt to locate the origins of National Socialist ideology from a singular point source is doomed to failure:

No sensible historian has argued that the total package of Nazism was present in earlier social or political movements or ideologies.

What historians have tried to do is to find out where the different parts of Nazi ideology came from. Evans: [Rereading German History](#). My emphasis.

Singer, Bernd Weikl cannot in any way be called a 'sensible historian' if he regards considers Wagner and Hitler to be one and the same person. The likelihood that professors of history will agree to throw away libraries full of studies on this, one of the most intensively studied eras in all of history, to replace them with a wholesale rewriting of history by some retired opera singer are vanishingly slim. Even [Peter Viereck](#), an early pioneer of Nazi opera conspiracy theories, agreed when he wrote in the 2006 preface of his 1941 book:

[M]y Wagner-Hitler research was greeted with general skepticism in 1941... But today the Wagner link has gone too far in the opposite direction. Countless exaggerated articles on WagnerHitler.

Viereck: [Metapolitics](#). 2006 edition

Weikl's book is just another one of these "countless exaggerated articles on WagnerHitler" alleging Hitler was the 'reincarnation' (sic) of Wagner.

With that, it would be highly interesting to see what official statement Professor Friedländer puts out on Weikl's book. Professor Friedländer has always shown an interest in this subject matter, and as one of the most respected of all

academics in his field, his views deserve to be taken seriously.

In any case, my full review of Bernd Weikl's book will eventually follow. The book is rather superficial, as anticipated. Although Joachim Fest praised [Joachim Köhler's](#) 'astonishing hard work' in researching his book, the same cannot be said for Weikl. As

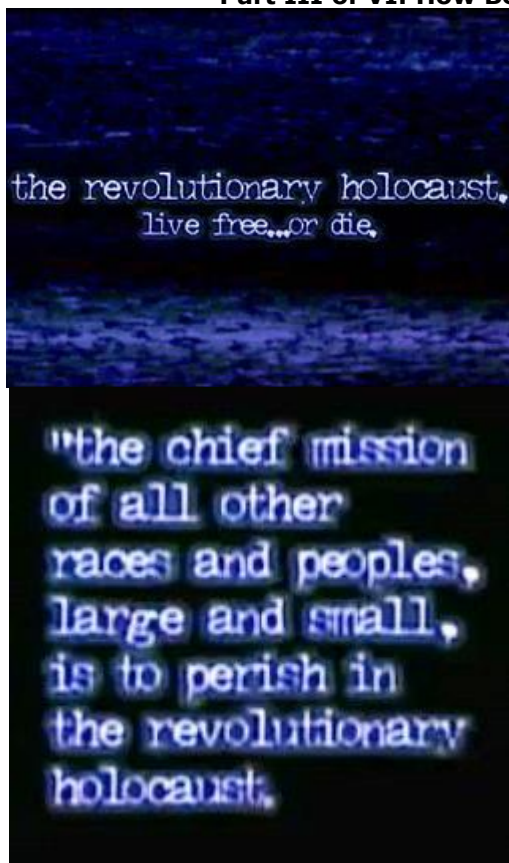
predicated, Weikl has hardly gone through volumes of ex-Soviet archives looking for primary source material to support his claims. Instead, history is to be rewritten based on ever more wildly speculative inferences gleamed from reading opera libretti.

Posted 11th September 2014 by [Sator Arepo](#)

Review: Glenn Beck's "Revolutionary Holocaust: Live Free or Die"

BY [THE RED PHOENIX](#) ON [FEBRUARY 3, 2010](#) • (3)

Part III of VI: How Beck Turned Marx Into A Common Racist



This Quote is False.

Glenn Beck and Jonah Goldberg cite examples of Marx's supposed "anti-Semitism" in connection with Hitler. What Goldberg is referring to are Marx's words on the economic status of the Jews of Germany. Marx's calls to "purge the Jewish spirit" meant to remove the peculiar economic situation of the Jews; that of isolated merchants, and Marx's calls for the assimilation by the German State of its "ancient eastern neighbors" meant that the Jews were on a fast course towards losing their economic particularism and were instead becoming "normal" members of society. Indeed, events such as World War I displayed Jewish integration in society through the armed forces, civil service, etc. Marx's calls were for the Jews to cease being a "niche" within society and to instead become full-fledged members of it, as it were. Hitler's calls, by contrast, were for mass murder. (See Hal Draper's 1977 article "Marx and the Economic-Jew Stereotype") This is coupled with the fact that Marx was not at all saying anything against the Jews as a people.

"Revolutionary Holocaust"

Beck cites Marx discussing pre-capitalist societies and Marx's apparent calls for a "revolutionary holocaust." There is, however, no real source for this claim. The source cited by the clip is false in that the words do not appear or are simply garbled in translation beyond recognition. (See A.R. Djukov. "The Soviet Story." pp. 41-47.)

The Mexicans and Spanish

Glenn Beck managed to get at least one quote from Marx and Engels right. Here is the complete context:

"In America we have witnessed the conquest of Mexico and have rejoiced at it. It is also an advance when a country which has hitherto been exclusively wrapped up in its own affairs, perpetually rent with civil wars, and completely hindered in its development, a country whose best prospect had been to become industrially subject to Britain—when such a country is forcibly drawn into the historical process. It is to the interest of its own development that Mexico will in future be placed under the tutelage of the United States. The evolution of the whole of America will profit by the fact that the United States, by the possession of California, obtains command of the Pacific. But again we ask: 'Who is going to profit immediately by the war?' The bourgeoisie alone. The Spanish are already degenerate. But a degenerate Spaniard, a Mexican, is an ideal."



This passage was written in 1848. Marx and Engels at this time adopted a policy that stated social and economic progress stood higher than national independence when the two conflict. By the 1860s however, their position had changed. They realized the Mexican-American War was not progressive but rather helped spread slavery. Marx wrote that slavery was the key issue in the Civil War, which he tied to the war with Mexico:

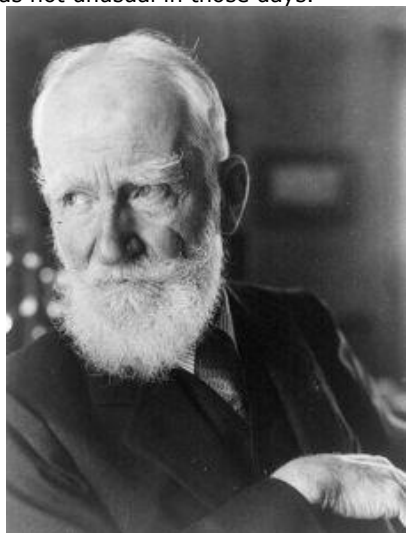
"Not in the sense of whether the slaves within the existing slave states should be emancipated outright or not...but whether the 20 million freemen of the North should submit any longer to an oligarchy of 300,000 slaveholders; whether the vast Territories of the republic should be nurseries for free states or for slavery; finally, whether the national policy of the Union should take armed spreading of slavery in Mexico, Central and South America as its device."

After 1848, Marx and Engels would develop a very different attitude towards colonialism. They would later champion India's Sepoy Rebellion, the freedom of the Irish and liberation of African, Asian and Latin Americans from imperialism in direct contradiction to their stances in 1848 on the Mexican and Slavic nations. It is odd that Glenn Beck is attacking the quote, since it is supporting the American invasion of the southwest. Of course, Beck wouldn't dare to give his viewers the context, or else it would look like he is "sympathizing with La Raza."

The Pretend Racism of Marx & Engels

It is ironic that the same people on the right who constantly complain about political correctness and hypersensitivity toward racial issues want to try to condemn Marx and Engels over these issues. It is one thing to use racially-charged words in the

1840s-50s, and it is entirely another matter to wage a racist crusade in the modern era. Although Marx used the word "nigger," it was not unusual in those days.



George Bernard Shaw, a Racist Whom they Quote as Advocating Eugenics, Was Hated By Marx and Engels

As well, the APL has not seen any real condemnations by Marx and Engels of Africans. In any case, Marx supported the cause of abolition and, as many know, sent a letter to Lincoln praising him and his Presidency. Marx said to Lincoln:

"We congratulate the American people upon your re-election by a large majority. If resistance to the Slave Power was the reserved watchword of your first election, the triumphant war cry of your re-election is Death to Slavery."

This passage is supporting the emancipation of the slaves—clearly, not very racist. While Karl Marx and Engels may have suffered from racism or euro-centrism to some extent, so did everyone else in that time period. It is amazing that Beck wants to focus and exaggerate these two historical figures' racism, but completely forgives that of the Founding Fathers—Karl Marx and Engels owned not one slave.



"Which One of These Men Owned Slaves?"

Why Glenn Beck Shouldn't Be Calling Anybody Racist

Considering the history of his Mormon religious affiliation, Glenn Beck's tirade against Marx, Engels and Guevara could not be called "the pot calling the kettle black," but more like "the pot calling fresh snow black."

For example, it would be quite more entertaining than this façade if he were to educate viewers on the true history of the Mormon Church's belief on Black people, namely that they are black because of the "Mark of Cain" and are thus all cursed descendants from the world's alleged first murderer. This was their position all the way until 1978. Blacks were forbidden from going to a Mormon church, despite the fact that their "original color" was apparently white before they became "sinners."

Brigham Young, the famous Mormon leader, had this to say: "Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African race? If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is

death on the spot. This will always be so." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 10, p. 110).

"You see some classes of the human family that are black, uncouth, uncomely, disagreeable and low in their habits, wild, and seemingly deprived of nearly all the blessings of the intelligence that is generally bestowed upon mankind....Cain slew his brother. Cain might have been killed, and that would have put a termination to that line of human beings. This was not to be, and the Lord put a mark upon him, which is the flat nose and black skin." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p. 290).

"In our first settlement in Missouri, it was said by our enemies that we intended to tamper with the slaves, not that we had any idea of the kind, for such a thing never entered our minds. We knew that the children of Ham were to be the 'servant of servants,' and no power under heaven could hinder it, so long as the Lord would permit them to welter under the curse and those were known to be our religious views concerning them." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2, p. 172).

And yes, just so we are clear once and for all, Mr. Beck:

"Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned," (Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 266).

"The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy," (Journal of Discourses, vol. 11, p. 269).

But of course, as Glenn Beck apologists will doubtlessly point out, these are quotes from the man who founded Beck's religion and not from Beck himself. Very well then—let us visit some of Beck's own quotes. First, let us just reprint Beck's gem about Obama once more, to let it sink in: "[Barack Obama] has exposed himself as a guy who has a deep-seated hatred for white people or the white culture." He then added, "This guy is ... a racist."

Yes, I am afraid Mr. Beck is quite the class act when it comes to race. Let's go a recap of some of the delightful treats to be found on Mr. Beck's website and track record:

He once suggested to a 7-year-old African-American girl, the author of a controversial poem that she should "go to Africa" and promised to "personally purchase [her] airfare."

An animated presentation on his website narrates that Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad "had relations with a goat."

An announcer on another clip says Mexico's "main contribution to American society is the deflowering of our teenage daughters on spring break."

Several segments of his show feature Middle Eastern superheroes named Kandahar and Jalalabad who blow themselves up at the end of all episodes.

On his website, there is a clip entitled, "I Like Chinese." The lyrics include references to Chinese as "small" and "cuddly," further saying that "they only come up to your knees" and "they all have names like Wang and Chung and Sun-Ji."

To a caller who claimed to have tortured prisoners for the US military he once said, "I've got to tell you, I appreciate your service. Good for you. Good for—I mean, good for you. Is it because you did it for the country? ... I have to tell you, when all is said and done, I'm glad people like you are on our side."

"Prove to me that you are not working with our enemies," Beck asked Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), the first Muslim member of the House of Representatives. (Glenn Beck, 11/14/06) Yes, he did say that right to the guy's face.

As a last small note, it is awfully funny that Beck cares so much about the infamous butchers and torturers under Batista that were executed by Castro, seeing as how Beck himself admitted he would like to execute a person or two: "Hang on, let me just tell you what I'm thinking. I'm thinking about killing Michael Moore, and I'm wondering if I could kill him myself, or if I would need to hire somebody to do it. No, I think I could. I think he could be looking me in the eye, you know, and I could just be choking the life out — is this wrong?"

<http://theredphoenixapl.org/2010/02/03/review-glenn-becks-revolutionary-holocaust-live-free-or-die-3/>

Lithuanian fascists march beneath swastikas near execution site of 10,000 Jews

02.18.2015 | 29 Shevat, 5775

By JTA \02/17/2015 14:14

"This march is particularly offensive because it is taking place where locals and Nazis murdered more than 10,000 Jews in one day."



Neo-Nazis at public demonstration. (photo credit:REUTERS)

Approximately 500 ultra nationalists, some bearing Nazi swastikas, marched through a Lithuanian city that during the Holocaust saw the region's most effective massacre of Jews. Monday's march through Kaunas, Lithuania's second-largest city 60 miles from the capital of Vilnius, was the eighth annual event organized by the Lithuanian Nationalist Youth Union on Feb. 16 – one of their Baltic state's two independence days.

As the marchers assembled at a local park, they were confronted by 20-odd protesters from the local Jewish community and anti-fascist groups who shadowed the marchers in a silent counter-demonstration.

"This march is particularly offensive because it is taking place where locals and Nazis murdered more than 10,000 Jews in one day," said Dovid Katz, a U.S.-born Jewish scholar of Yiddish who

settled in Vilnius 16 years ago and has led protests against the veneration of Nazis in the Baltic States.

Katz, editor of the website DefendingHistory.com, was referring to the Kaunas massacre in October 1941, in which more Jews were killed in a single day than any other killing spree against Jews in the Baltic region.

During the march, locals chanted "out with Katz" and made obscene gestures at him and at Efraim Zuroff, a hunter of Nazis and the Israel director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Three activists from the nationalist youth movement posed for pictures next to Zuroff while holding signs that accused Israel of being a racist state and showed a picture of Africans refugees on the march.

Tomas Skorupsis, an organizer of the march from the youth movement, said the event was not anti-Semitic. Repeating a popular view in far-right circles in the Baltic nations, he added: "There are many Lithuanians who find it hard to forgive Jews who, during Communism, killed nationalist freedom fighters. But I think we should leave it in the past and look ahead."

Many in the Baltic nations – where Jewish communities hundreds of thousands strong were wiped out by the Nazis and their local helpers – regard local fascists as heroes because they fought Communist occupation, which is often equated with the Nazi one.

"This comparison is not only false, it also serves to whitewash the stain in these countries' histories instead of confronting it, as other European nations have done," Zuroff said.

<http://www.ipost.com/Diaspora/Lithuanian-fascists-march-beneath-swastikas-near-execution-site-of-10000-Jews-391289>

Stanford University student senate passes Israel divestment resolution

By JPOST.COM STAFF \02/18/2015 13:11



Stanford University. (photo credit:REUTERS)

California's prestigious Stanford University approved Tuesday a resolution to support divestment from corporations identified as complicit in human rights abuses in Israel and Palestine, *The Stanford Daily* reported.

The same resolution had failed to pass in a vote last week, garnering only 64 percent approval from the senators, less than the required 66 percent approval.

The resolution was proposed by the Stanford Out of Occupied Palestine campus organization in the wake of last summer's conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. A petition against divestment was also launched January 21 by the Coalition for Peace against Israel divestment, amassing signatures from 1,600 students, faculty and alumni.

Tuesday's revote was passed with ten in favor of the bill, four against and one abstention.

The decision to allow a revote, taken by Senate chairwoman Ana Ordonez, was made after many senators maintained that the first vote had taken place in a hostile environment, the *Daily* reported. While the first vote was attended by some 400 people, there were only some 35 people at the second vote. Ordonez had been driven to tears during the first vote, according to the paper, and had abstained. She brought forward the motion for a revote, voting in favor of divestment in the second vote. "Now that the noise has subsided, I know that I voted incorrectly," the *Daily* quoted her as saying after the first vote.

The decision to allow a revote was not universally accepted. Senator Andrew Aude told the student paper, "The symbolism of divestment is lost if we go about it this way...It makes me want to bring a constitutional case against the Senate." An amendment was added to the resolution for the second vote, clarifying that the divestment resolution was not connected to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, affirming "both Palestinian and Israeli right to life, security and self-determination."

<http://www.ipost.com/Diaspora/Stanford-University-student-senate-passes-Israel-divestment-resolution-391403>

Rouhani accommodates Iran's Jewish students



By Meir Javedanfar

Thanks to the government of [President Hassan Rouhani](#), as of Feb. 4, Jewish students officially no longer have to attend school on the Sabbath. This is an important step by the Rouhani administration to [welcome Iranian Jews](#).

Summary: President Hassan Rouhani's administration has taken positive steps in addressing concerns of Iranian Jews, who wish to observe the holy Sabbath without sacrificing their education.

There are numerous reasons why my family left Iran in 1987, but an important one was the decision by the Iranian government that year not to officially recognize the holy Sabbath as a religious day off for Jewish students. There was no choice: The Iranian school week ran from Saturday to Thursday so we either attended school on the Sabbath or we were failed and had to repeat the year.



Homayoun Sameyah Najaf Abadi, head of Iran's 8,500-strong Jewish community, poses in front of a new memorial for Iran's Jewish people at the Beheshtieh Jewish cemetery in southern Tehran, Jan. 9, 2015. (photo by Getty Images/Behrouz Mehri)

Soon after the [1979 revolution](#), Jewish students were given Saturdays off as a day of rest. This was an unofficial decision, but one that was respected. This applied to all Jewish schools. Meanwhile, Jewish students attending Muslim schools in Iran could also ask to not attend schools on Saturdays, although some students chose to as they did not want to miss important classes. But it was up to them.

To add salt to the wound, once Jewish students were forced to attend school on the Sabbath, in some Jewish schools vocational training classes (referred to in Persian as [Herf-e va Fan](#)) were also moved to Saturdays. So not only were Jewish students forced to sin by turning up to school on the Sabbath, they were forced to sin even more, as such classes included activities using electronic equipment or carpentry, which are also banned on the Sabbath. This made the experience of attending school on the Sabbath even more painful, and in some cases humiliating, for Jewish students.

This new development to recognize Sabbath comes on the heels of other positive and respectful steps taken by the Rouhani administration toward [Iran's Jewish community](#), which according to the 2006 census

numbered around 9,252. It is believed that their numbers have decreased since then, due to emigration. Another important step was taken in December 2014 by the Rouhani government when a memorial honoring [Iran's fallen Jewish soldiers](#) in the Iran-Iraq war was unveiled.

This is in addition to \$400,000 [donated by the Rouhani government](#) to Tehran's sole Jewish charity hospital in February 2014.

Much like politics in Iran, views and policies relating to Iran's Jewish community are full of paradoxes and contradictions. One of the more interesting paradoxes relates to [Ali Younessi](#), Rouhani's special assistant on issues regarding [religious minorities](#). Younessi has been the point man behind Rouhani's positive [outreach to Iran's Jewish community](#). This is the same Younessi who was in charge of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence when it accused 13 Jews of spying for Israel — charges that were thought of as being highly dubious. Today, Younessi is even visiting synagogues and unveiling memorials to Iran's fallen Jewish martyrs in the Iran-Iraq war.

One of the more depressing paradoxes is that while Rouhani's government tries to show respect to Iran's millennia-old Jewish community, parts of the regime are [doing the opposite](#) by planning to hold a new [Holocaust denial cartoon](#) competition in Tehran.

This will be the second Holocaust denial cartoon competition. The first one was held in December 2006, soon after then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad [called the Holocaust a myth](#). Unfortunately, Ahmadinejad is not the only person to make such a reference to the Holocaust. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made a similar statement in February of the same year.

As for the person who encouraged former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to force Jewish students to attend school, it turns out that this was [Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Mohtashami-Pur](#), Iran's former ambassador to Syria in the early 1980s and one of the Iranian founders of the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah.

In an interview with the Tehran-based [Entekhab News](#) on June 4, 2012, Mohtashami-Pur recalled how he told the minister of education that "he has no right" to officially declare the Sabbath as a day off for Jewish students. "Whenever in the US or Europe they allow Friday to be a holiday for the sake of Muslim children, then we'll do this for Jews," he said.

In the same interview, he then goes on to state that because of the pressure applied by Jewish representatives to officially declare Saturdays as a holiday for Jewish students, he wrote a letter to the late Khomeini, after which the supreme leader "resolutely stated never" — meaning no to officially recognizing the Sabbath as a day of rest for Jewish students.

In a strange twist of fate in 2009, in the very same Syria where Mohtashami-Pur helped establish Hezbollah, one of the great success stories of the export of the Iranian revolution, Mohtashami-Pur was [threatened by Ahmadinejad supporters](#), because of his support for [Mir-Hossein Mousavi](#).

Just as his support for the decision to force Jewish students to attend schools on the Sabbath led to some Jews leaving their homeland, he himself was forced to flee Iran soon after the 2009 elections, and

sought [refuge in Iraq](#). Mohtashami-Pur [returned to Iran](#) in 2013. According to reports in the Iranian press, in 1983 he was the victim of an [Israeli parcel bomb](#) while serving at Iran's embassy as ambassador, in which he lost a hand.

Iranian politics is full of twists and turns. Politicians fall in and out of favor. The same could happen to Rouhani. Once that happens, it could be the end of the what has

comparatively been a golden era in relations between Iranian Jews and their government. Let's hope not.

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<http://www.almonitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/02/iran-hassan-rouhani-iranian-jews.html#ixzz3S5vjv4a0>

War by media and the triumph of propaganda

5 December 2014

It is not enough for journalists to
see themselves as mere messengers
without understanding the hidden
agendas of the message and myths
that surround it. - John Pilger
johnpilger.com

Why has so much journalism succumbed to propaganda? Why are censorship and distortion standard practice?

Why is the BBC so often a mouthpiece of rapacious power? Why do the New York Times and the Washington Post deceive their readers?

Why are young journalists not taught to understand media agendas and to challenge the high claims and low purpose of fake objectivity? And why are they not taught that the essence of so much of what's called the mainstream media is not information, but power?

These are urgent questions. The world is facing the prospect of major war, perhaps nuclear war - with the United States clearly determined to isolate and provoke Russia and eventually China. This truth is being turned upside down and inside out by journalists, including those who promoted the lies that led to the bloodbath in Iraq in 2003.

The times we live in are so dangerous and so distorted in public perception that propaganda is no longer, as Edward Bernays called it, an "invisible government". It is the government. It rules directly without fear of contradiction and its principal aim is the conquest of us: our sense of the world, our ability to separate truth from lies.

The information age is actually a media age. We have war by media; censorship by media; demonology by media; retribution by media; diversion by media - a surreal assembly line of obedient clichés and false assumptions.

This power to create a new "reality" has been building for a long time. Forty-five years ago, a book entitled *The Greening of America* caused a sensation. On the cover were these words: "There is a revolution coming. It will not be like revolutions of the past. It will originate with the individual."

I was a correspondent in the United States at the time and recall the overnight elevation to guru status of the author, a young Yale academic, Charles Reich. His message was that truth-telling and political action had failed and only "culture" and introspection could change the world.

Within a few years, driven by the forces of profit, the cult of "me-ism" had all but overwhelmed our sense of acting together, our sense of social justice and internationalism. Class, gender and race were separated. The personal was the political, and the media was the message.

In the wake of the cold war, the fabrication of new "threats" completed the political disorientation of those who, 20 years earlier, would have formed a vehement opposition.

In 2003, I filmed an interview in Washington with Charles Lewis, the distinguished American investigative journalist. We discussed the invasion of Iraq a few months earlier. I asked him, "What if the freest media in the world had seriously challenged George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld and investigated their claims, instead of channeling what turned out to be crude propaganda?" He replied that if we journalists had done our job "there is a very, very good chance we would have not gone to war in Iraq." That's a shocking statement, and one supported by other famous journalists to whom I put the same question. Dan Rather, formerly of CBS, gave me the same answer. David Rose of the Observer and senior journalists and producers in the BBC, who wished to remain anonymous, gave me the same answer.

In other words, had journalists done their job, had they questioned and investigated the propaganda instead of amplifying it, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children might be alive today; and millions might not have fled their homes; the sectarian war between Sunni and Shia might not have ignited, and the infamous Islamic State might not now exist.

Even now, despite the millions who took to the streets in protest, most of the public in western countries have little idea of the sheer scale of the crime committed by our governments in Iraq.

Even fewer are aware that, in the 12 years before the invasion, the US and British governments set in motion a holocaust by denying the civilian population of Iraq a means to live.

Those are the words of the senior British official responsible for sanctions on Iraq in the 1990s - a medieval siege that caused the deaths of half a million children under the age of five, reported Unicef. The official's name is Carne Ross. In the Foreign Office in London, he was known as "Mr. Iraq". Today, he is a truth-teller of how governments deceive and how journalists willingly spread the deception. "We would feed journalists factoids of sanitised intelligence," he told me, "or we'd freeze them out."

The main whistleblower during this terrible, silent period was Denis Halliday. Then Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and the senior UN official in Iraq, Halliday resigned rather than implement policies he described as genocidal. He estimates that sanctions killed more than a million Iraqis.

What then happened to Halliday was instructive. He was airbrushed. Or he was vilified. On the BBC's Newsnight programme, the presenter Jeremy Paxman shouted at him: "Aren't you just an apologist for Saddam Hussein?" The Guardian recently described this as one of Paxman's "memorable moments". Last week, Paxman signed a £1 million book deal.

The handmaidens of suppression have done their job well. Consider the effects. In 2013, a ComRes poll found that a majority of the British public believed the casualty toll in Iraq was less than 10,000 - a tiny fraction of the truth. A trail of blood that goes from Iraq to London has been scrubbed almost clean.

Rupert Murdoch is said to be the godfather of the media mob, and no one should doubt the augmented power of his newspapers - all 127 of them, with a combined circulation of 40 million, and his Fox network. But the influence of Murdoch's empire is no greater than its reflection of the wider media.

The most effective propaganda is found not in the Sun or on Fox News - but beneath a liberal halo. When the New York Times published claims that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, its fake evidence was believed, because it wasn't Fox News; it was the New York Times.

The same is true of the Washington Post and the Guardian, both of which have played a critical role in conditioning their readers to accept a new and dangerous cold war. All three liberal newspapers have misrepresented events in Ukraine as a malign act by Russia - when, in fact, the fascist led coup in Ukraine was the work of the United States, aided by Germany and Nato.

This inversion of reality is so pervasive that Washington's military encirclement and intimidation of Russia is not contentious. It's not even news, but suppressed behind a smear and scare campaign of the kind I grew up with during the first cold war.

Once again, the evil empire is coming to get us, led by another Stalin or, perversely, a new Hitler. Name your demon and let rip.

The suppression of the truth about Ukraine is one of the most complete news blackouts I can remember. The biggest Western military build-up in the Caucasus and eastern Europe since world war two is blacked out. Washington's secret aid to Kiev and its neo-Nazi brigades responsible for war crimes against the population of eastern Ukraine is blacked out.

Evidence that contradicts propaganda that Russia was responsible for the shooting down of a Malaysian airliner is blacked out.

And again, supposedly liberal media are the censors. Citing no facts, no evidence, one journalist identified a pro-Russian leader in Ukraine as the man who shot down the airliner. This man, he wrote, was known as The Demon. He was a scary man who frightened the journalist. That was the evidence.

Many in the western media have worked hard to present the ethnic Russian population of Ukraine as outsiders in their own country, almost never as Ukrainians seeking a federation within Ukraine and as Ukrainian citizens resisting a foreign-orchestrated coup against their elected government.

What the Russian president has to say is of no consequence; he is a pantomime villain who can be abused with impunity. An American general who heads Nato and is straight out of Dr. Strangelove - one General Breedlove - routinely claims Russian invasions without a shred of visual evidence. His impersonation of Stanley Kubrick's General Jack D. Ripper is pitch perfect.

Forty thousand Ruskies were massing on the border, according to Breedlove. That was good enough for the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Observer - the latter having previously distinguished itself with lies and fabrications that backed Blair's invasion of Iraq, as its former reporter, David Rose, revealed.

There is almost the joi d'esprit of a class reunion. The drum-beaters of the Washington Post are the very same editorial writers who declared the existence of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction to be "hard facts".

"If you wonder," wrote Robert Parry, "how the world could stumble into world war three - much as it did into world war one a century ago - all you need to do is look at the madness that has enveloped virtually the entire US political/media structure over Ukraine where a false narrative of white hats versus black hats took hold early and has proved impervious to facts or reason."

Parry, the journalist who revealed Iran-Contra, is one of the few who investigate the central role of the media in this "game of

chicken", as the Russian foreign minister called it. But is it a game? As I write this, the US Congress votes on Resolution 758 which, in a nutshell, says: "Let's get ready for war with Russia." In the 19th century, the writer Alexander Herzen described secular liberalism as "the final religion, though its church is not of the other world but of this". Today, this divine right is far more violent and dangerous than anything the Muslim world throws up, though perhaps its greatest triumph is the illusion of free and open information.

In the news, whole countries are made to disappear. Saudi Arabia, the source of extremism and western-backed terror, is not a story, except when it drives down the price of oil. Yemen has endured twelve years of American drone attacks. Who knows? Who cares?

In 2009, the University of the West of England published the results of a ten-year study of the BBC's coverage of Venezuela. Of 304 broadcast reports, only three mentioned any of the positive policies introduced by the government of Hugo Chavez. The greatest literacy programme in human history received barely a passing reference.

In Europe and the United States, millions of readers and viewers know next to nothing about the remarkable, life-giving changes implemented in Latin America, many of them inspired by Chavez. Like the BBC, the reports of the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian and the rest of the respectable western media were notoriously in bad faith. Chavez was mocked even on his deathbed. How is this explained, I wonder, in schools of journalism?

Why are millions of people in Britain persuaded that a collective punishment called "austerity" is necessary?

Following the economic crash in 2008, a rotten system was exposed. For a split second the banks were lined up as crooks with obligations to the public they had betrayed.

But within a few months - apart from a few stones lobbed over excessive corporate "bonuses" - the message changed. The mugshots of guilty bankers vanished from the tabloids and something called "austerity" became the burden of millions of ordinary people. Was there ever a sleight of hand as brazen?

Today, many of the premises of civilised life in Britain are being dismantled in order to pay back a fraudulent debt - the debt of crooks. The "austerity" cuts are said to be £83 billion. That's almost exactly the amount of tax avoided by the same banks and by corporations like Amazon and Murdoch's News UK. Moreover, the crooked banks are given an annual subsidy of £100bn in free insurance and guarantees - a figure that would fund the entire National Health Service.

The economic crisis is pure propaganda. Extreme policies now rule Britain, the United States, much of Europe, Canada and Australia. Who is standing up for the majority? Who is telling their story? Who's keeping record straight? Isn't that what journalists are meant to do?

In 1977, Carl Bernstein, of Watergate fame, revealed that more than 400 journalists and news executives worked for the CIA. They included journalists from the New York Times, Time and the TV networks. In 1991, Richard Norton Taylor of the Guardian revealed something similar in this country.

None of this is necessary today. I doubt that anyone paid the Washington Post and many other media outlets to accuse Edward Snowden of aiding terrorism. I doubt that anyone pays those who routinely smear Julian Assange - though other rewards can be plentiful.

It's clear to me that the main reason Assange has attracted such venom, spite and jealousy is that WikiLeaks tore down the facade of a corrupt political elite held aloft by journalists. In heralding an extraordinary era of disclosure, Assange made enemies by illuminating and shaming the media's gatekeepers, not least on the newspaper that published and appropriated his great scoop. He became not only a target, but a golden goose.

Lucrative book and Hollywood movie deals were struck and media careers launched or kick-started on the back of WikiLeaks and its founder. People have made big money, while WikiLeaks has struggled to survive.

None of this was mentioned in Stockholm on 1 December when the editor of the Guardian, Alan Rusbridger, shared with Edward Snowden the Right Livelihood Award, known as the alternative Nobel Peace Prize. What was shocking about this event was that Assange and WikiLeaks were airbrushed. They didn't exist. They were unpeople. No one spoke up for the man who pioneered digital whistleblowing and handed the Guardian one of the greatest scoops in history. Moreover, it was Assange and his WikiLeaks team who effectively - and brilliantly - rescued Edward Snowden in Hong Kong and sped him to safety. Not a word.

What made this censorship by omission so ironic and poignant and disgraceful was that the ceremony was held in the Swedish parliament - whose craven silence on the Assange case has colluded with a grotesque miscarriage of justice in Stockholm.

"When the truth is replaced by silence," said the Soviet dissident Yevtushenko, "the silence is a lie."

It's this kind of silence we journalists need to break. We need to look in the mirror. We need to call to account an unaccountable media that services power and a psychosis that threatens world war.

In the 18th century, Edmund Burke described the role of the press as a Fourth Estate checking the powerful. Was that ever true? It certainly doesn't wash any more. What we need is a Fifth Estate: a journalism that monitors, deconstructs and counters propaganda and teaches the young to be agents of people, not power. We need what the Russians called perestroika - an insurrection of subjugated knowledge. I would call it real journalism.

It's 100 years since the First World War. Reporters then were rewarded and knighted for their silence and collusion. At the height of the slaughter, British prime minister David Lloyd George confided in C.P. Scott, editor of the Manchester Guardian: "If people really knew [the truth] the war would be stopped tomorrow, but of course they don't know and can't know."

It's time they knew.

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Austria mulls expropriating Hitler's birthplace

By MATTHIAS ROEDER, February 18 2015 at 11:55am



AFP Picture taken on September 20, 2012 shows the house where Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau, Austria. Picture: Manfred Fesl

Braunau, Austria - The Austrian government is exploring expropriation to gain access to the house where Adolf Hitler was born. The building's owner has not responded to offers to turn it into an education centre. The house in which Adolf Hitler was born has stood empty for four years, and it shows.

Wet stains mottle its yellow facade, and the wooden window frames are in need of a fresh coat of paint.

The owner of the private building, Gerlinde Pommer, has been resisting efforts to putting it to a meaningful use, but the Austrian government is now pressuring her to help find a solution to this politically sensitive issue.

The Republic of Austria and the town of Braunau have been leasing the building from the publicity-shy retiree since 1972.

They had been subletting it to a workshop for disabled people - a usage with symbolic value, considering that the disabled were systematically persecuted during Hitler's reign.

"Everyone viewed this usage in a positive way," said Florian Kotanko of the local Contemporary History Association.

But when Pommer refused to adapt the building to the special needs of the craftspeople, the workshop moved out in 2011.

"Her motives are not clear," Kotanko said.

"Leaving it permanently vacant is not in the interest of the interior ministry," said Karl-Heinz Grundboeck, spokesman of the ministry that is responsible for the house where Hitler was born in 1889.

One year ago, the ministry proposed using the house for an adult education centre and for a local social service institution, and it has also offered to buy the property for an undisclosed sum. But there has been no answer.

"We have to broaden our options," Grundboeck said, referring to the possibility of dispossessing Pommer.

The ministry has commissioned expert legal opinions on the matter and is expecting to receive them in the coming weeks.

However, it may be difficult to go this legal path, a leading Austrian law professor says, unless Pommer planned to install something offensive like a Hitler memorial, or unless parliament passed a special law.

"One cannot simply expropriate," constitutional expert Heinz Mayer told the regional daily Oberoesterreichische Nachrichten.

Braunau, a town of 16,300 near the border with Germany, has worked over the years to deal with the fact that Hitler was born and lived here for the first few years of his life.

Kotanko's history association and other groups have been organising conferences, streets have been named after Nazi-era victims and resistance fighters, and a stone from the nearby Mauthausen concentration camp has been put up in front of the Hitler house as a memorial.

"For peace, freedom and democracy. Never again fascism. Millions of dead admonish us," its inscription reads.

The presence of the house still plays a big role in the public consciousness of the locals, mayor Johannes Waidbacher said.

"Our main aim is to do our utmost so that the house does not become a pilgrimage site for neo-Nazis," he added.

The group "Exit Germany" has proposed a plan that goes just in the opposite direction.

It wants to set up a centre that helps neo-Nazis leave the far-right scene, modelled after a programme that it successfully runs in Germany.

However, the impasse with the owner has to be overcome before deciding what will be done with the building.

Besides dispossessing Pommer, Austria could also cancel its leasing contract at the beginning of March, leaving Pommer short of her monthly rent of 4 800 euros (5 500 dollars) and giving the interior ministry added leverage in negotiations, people involved in the process said.

There would have been one other option to prevent the building from becoming a burden for Braunau and for Austria.

At the end of World War II, the US army liberated Braunau in May 1945 and fought back a remaining detachment of the German Wehrmacht.

If the US soldiers had been slightly less conscientious, they would have let the Wehrmacht unit fulfil its last order: To detonate Hitler's birthplace.

Sapa-dpa

http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/austria-mulls-expropriatinghitlersbirthplace1.1820090#.VOWFk_mUeV_A